

DEERFIELD SCHOOL BOARD  
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL – LIBRARY - 66 NORTH ROAD  
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM

Members/Participants: Kendra Cohen; Chair, Ellen O'Donnell, Zach Langlois, Danielle Palmer,  
Supt. Patty Sherman, Principal Kristen Withee, Assistant Principal Brian Grieve, Recording Secretary Trish Lafond

1. Call to Order – Ms. Cohen, Chair  
Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 6 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
Chair Cohen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Minutes – October 4, 2023 & October 18, 2023  
**A motion was made by Ellen O'Donnell, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to move the minutes of October 4, 2023 as written.**  
**4-0-1**  
**MOTION CARRIED**  
  
**A motion was made by Danielle Palmer, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to move the minutes of October 18, 2023 as written.**  
**ALL IN FAVOR**  
**MOTION CARRIED**
4. Immediate Business
  - A. Public Comments  
Greg Whitmore said DCS students visiting Pembroke Academy went through his classroom and it was very nice to see them excited. He hopes the board has a decision for them very soon and they can move forward. He stated 2 plans were proposed. One requires sending 70% to CHS. Why are we allowing CHS to hold us hostage? The town has clearly said what they want. Give it to them.  
Bobby Ann Dostie thanked the board for all that they do and gave shout-out to Mrs. Withee. She's the best!
  - B. Agenda Review – Ms. Cohen  
Add nonpublic session under letters "c" and "k".
  - C. Consent Agenda (0 item)
  - D. FY 24-25 Budget Presentation  
Supt. Sherman introduced Business Administrator Amber Wheeler and Assistant Superintendent Jess Bickford to the board. Ms. Wheeler explained the proposed budget and what it contains. The tax rate is not included as the town is not ready yet. Ms. Wheeler proceeded to go through the budget line by line. Ms. Bickford had a handout to explain special education costs. These costs have increased in house and out of district.  
Chair Cohen invited members of the Municipal Budget Committee to ask questions.  
Erroll Rhodes said it would be helpful to highlight what is changeable and what is not. Chair Cohen said she is working on this.  
There will be further budget discussions in 2 weeks and MBC members are invited to attend. It was suggested that Any questions they have be sent to Supt. Sherman in advance.
  - E. Review of Correspondence  
Chair Cohen itemized the correspondence received and what they concerned:  
Danielle Cassidy- 10/5-kindergarten recess  
Ann Travers-10/16-high school choice  
Linda Bean-10/17-opposition to lottery option for school choice  
Stacy Marchionni-10/19-board packets and board decorum  
Kevin Verville-10/27-rebuttal to letter from Maryann Clark, opposition to lottery option
  - F. High School Updates  
No updates. Other town's school boards only meet once a month. Drafted contracts have been sent to interested high schools. Waiting to hear back. The board has never heard from Dover High School.  
Supt. Sherman is attending a meeting at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Board Reports

- PTO Update  
Spirit sticks are being sold at lunch on certain days.
- Executive Board Report – Ms. Cohen  
The full board met and approved the SAU budget.
- Principal's Report – Ms. Withee  
10/5-advisory and magnet days for middle school students  
10/6-professional development day for staff, work on curriculums  
10/12-GR.4 to Strawberry Banke  
Classroom of the week has started back up.  
10/16-high school information night for GR.8  
10/17-SAU Leadership meeting  
10/19-mentor-mentee meeting  
10/20-GR.1 went to Squam Lake, band went to CHS to play at football game  
10/24-Girls' volleyball beat undefeated Rochester to be the league Champions!!  
10/25-GR.8 visited CHS and Pembroke Academy  
10/27-All School Meeting GR.7 hosted, fire drill, magnet dance  
10/31-winner of pumpkin contest announced  
Health screenings are ongoing  
Popcorn Fridays are back  
11/7-parent/teacher/student conferences  
11/9-Veteran's Day ceremony and breakfast  
11/10-No School  
11/16-Mark Ruest and Ashlynn Radcliffe, PE teachers are going to conference to be recognized for winning teacher of the year for Middle School (Mr. Ruest) and Elementary (Mrs. Radcliffe) at a banquet.
- Curriculum Review Board – Ms. O'Donnell  
Working on reviewing upcoming curriculums.
- MBC Committee Update – Mr. Langlois  
Town budget was reviewed last week.  
Leah McHugh is new to the committee.

6. Policy – Ms. Sherman

Move all to third reading.

- ACN- Nursing Mothers Accommodations 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- EHAB Data Governance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- GBCD Background Investigation and Criminal History Records Check 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- JCA Change of Class of School Assignment Best Interests and Manifest Hardship 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- JKAA Use of Restraints and Seclusion 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

7. Informational Items

8. Public Comments

Erroll Rhodes asked for an article on Mr. Ruest and Mrs. Radcliffe's recognitions. November 18<sup>th</sup> is deadline. He thanked Mrs. O'Donnell and Chris Koufos for attending the energy meeting.

Nancy Shute said the budget for next year is up by \$1 million dollars. She is concerned for DCS students. They will be impacted by the default budget. It hurts her that the DCS students will suffer the hit of the default budget.

**A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Zach Langlois to enter nonpublic session at 8:00 pm.**

**ROLL CALL-**

**Kendra Cohen-YES    Ellen O'Donnell-YES    Zach Langlois-YES    Danielle Palmer-YES**

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**MOTION CARRIED**

9. Non-Public Session - NH RSA 91-A:3, II, c,k

During nonpublic session the board discussed compensation of employees. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

The board also discussed high school negotiations.

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen, to exit nonpublic session at 9:01 pm.**

**ROLL CALL-**

**Kendra Cohen-YES   Ellen O'Donnell-YES   Zach Langlois-YES   Danielle Palmer-YES**

10. Appointments/Resignations – Ms. Sherman

11. Adjournment

**A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm.**

**ALL IN FAVOR  
MOTION CARRIED**

Next Scheduled Deerfield School Board Meeting: November 15, 2023 ~ 6:00 P.M. Deerfield Community School



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

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**Fwd: Deerfield High School Choice**

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**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>  
To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 4:20 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>  
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 6:02 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Deerfield High School Choice  
To: Danielle Palmer <dpalmer@sau53.org>, Ellen O'donnell <eodonnell@sau53.org>, nathan Oxnard <noxnard@sau53.org>, patty sherman <psherman@sau53.org>, z langlois <zlanglois@sau53.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ann Travers** <travcarn@metrocast.net>  
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 5:59 PM  
Subject: Deerfield High School Choice  
To: <kcohen@sau53.org>

Good afternoon,

I am writing again as a concerned Deerfield resident in support of High school choice. I understand that the school board has raised a few options. I would like to implore the school board to vote option B so that choice will be allowed for Deerfield students. I am not interested in any guaranteed minimums and attendance mandates. Students should have choice without ridiculous returns to lotteries that many residents still are traumatized over. Deerfield is better than that. Students should be able to go to Coe Brown if that is their choice. Deerfield students do not need constraints put on our town or having the inequality that Option A brings. Please vote Option B as written for choice. Thank you for your time.

Ann L Travers

[99 Mt Delight Road](#)

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Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
[267 Pembroke Street](#)  
[Pembroke, NH 03275](#)  
(603)485-5187



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

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**Fwd: HS Discussion - Min. enrollment**

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**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2023 at 5:00 PM

To: "gladu, ashley" &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>

Date: Tue, Oct 31, 2023, 4:11 PM

Subject: Fwd: HS Discussion - Min. enrollment

To: patty sherman &lt;psherman@sau53.org&gt;

Can we add to correspondence for meeting tomorrow?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>

Date: Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 1:49 PM

Subject: Fwd: HS Discussion - Min. enrollment

To: patty sherman &lt;psherman@sau53.org&gt;, Ellen O'donnell &lt;eodonnell@sau53.org&gt;, Danielle Palmer &lt;dpalmer@sau53.org&gt;, z langlois &lt;zlanglois@sau53.org&gt;, nathan Oxnard &lt;noxnard@sau53.org&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>

Date: Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 1:48 PM

Subject: Re: HS Discussion - Min. enrollment

To: Christina Baker &lt;baker.christinaa@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Christina,

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, these types of decisions have not yet been made by the Board, so it would be complete speculation on my part to weigh in on what things might look like. I will certainly keep this in mind and will attempt to address the question if it becomes relevant during the Board's decision-making process.

Thanks,

Kendra

On Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 11:24 AM Christina Baker &lt;baker.christinaa@gmail.com&gt; wrote:

Hello!

If the school board agrees to a contract that includes a guaranteed minimum number or percentage of students to attend CHS with a monetary penalty if that minimum is not met, how does that work?

For instance, let's say the minimum is 70% of 8th grade class and there is a lottery for the remaining 30%. If there is a family who is strongly anti-Concord who does not get pulled in the lottery and they choose to send their child private anyway, this would make us not hit that minimum of 70% and thus, the tuition rate would increase for all. Is this correct?

Thanks,  
Christina



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

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## Fwd: Kindergarten Recess - Current Scheduled Time

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**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>

Tue, Oct 10, 2023 at 3:44 PM

To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Board Drive please

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>

Date: Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 12:15 PM

Subject: Fwd: Kindergarten Recess - Current Scheduled Time

To: patty sherman <psherman@sau53.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Danielle Cassidy** <danielle.gray550@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 1:13 PM

Subject: Kindergarten Recess - Current Scheduled Time

To: <kcohen@sau53.org>, <eodonnell@sau53.org>, <noxnard@sau53.org>, <zlanglois@sau53.org>, <dpalmer@sau53.org>

Hello School Board members,

I am the mother of Kindergarten student, Jacob Cassidy in Miss Pickman's class at DCS.

I wanted to inquire about what role the school board may be able to participate in regarding communicating with the Principal and other powers to have the Kindergartener's current recess scheduled for a more appropriate time in the day, other than the very last event of the day before school dismissal?

I've sent an email with my concern to the principal and my son's kindergarten teacher yesterday.

I've also spoken to many of the other current Kindergartener's parents about this topic in the last few weeks as well as parents of students who were in Kindergarten last year. They were all in agreement that recess scheduled as the last event of the day doesn't suit the original purpose of having a recess. The purpose being: a break in the structured school day to move their body, a change of scenery, some fresh air and recharge and reset. Supporting their capacity to get through the day both physically and mentally. They are the youngest age group, and least developmentally and socially mature. They need that break in the school day at a more appropriate time far more than any other older age group.

I understand it was explained that the reasoning for this late time frame is due to the amount of time it takes the kids to wear snow gear. I'd argue that convenience should come last in priorities when decision making for our students.

Personally, I do have a son whom I suspect has ADHD and we are in the beginning stages of working with the school and pediatrician on a plan for accommodating his learning style. However, I would still feel this way regardless of my son's potential diagnosis. It's important for ALL students to have an appropriate break mid-day. It's even important for adults during the work day to do the same for their health and focus. So why would we expect differently of our kindergarteners?

I know for my son's personal situation we can go down the path of potentially requesting an additional movement break or recess for my son through a 504 or IEP, but the purpose and true intention and need for a recess is not at the end of the day and I wouldn't expect any student, especially a kindergartener to go the entire day before a recess right before dismissal.

I've spoken to parents in many other elementary schools throughout the state and learned that not only do they agree that recess for Kindergarteners as their last event of the day is inappropriate but their schools offer multiple recesses, anywhere from 2 to 3 a day. I understand we live in an age where we expect more of our kindergarteners than we did

when I was of elementary age in the 80s. I'm not asking for 2 or 3 recesses, I'm asking on behalf of all students and especially Kindergarteners, that their one scheduled recess be rescheduled for an appropriate time to suit it's purpose.

It saddens me that as parents without an education degree that we know the purpose and importance of recess being scheduled at an appropriate time of day, yet our Deerfield educators actually allowed this to take place and believe it to be acceptable.

If the school board can assist or direct me in anyway on next steps or even more beneficial to the DCS students, help me advocate for them on this, I'd greatly appreciate it! I did learn there were other elementary schools in the state that pulled this for the exact same reason, convenience..and it took their school board and some towns, their Superintendent to provide motivation for change.

I have another child that I hope to send to DCS in another 2 years when of age that I wouldn't want her to have this same issue or any other DCS student.

I'd like to get this changed for the benefit of all the Kindergarteners attending DCS now and in the future. If you need further feedback from current and former parents of Kindergarteners at DCS I have that for you upon request.

I really am not one to voice concerns and complain and as I'm sure many of you can relate, I certainly don't have the time in my busy schedule to be sending these correspondences that are taking away from my work day, but I made sure before reaching out to the school on this topic that it was a valid concern to others including: behavioral analysts, pediatricians, parents and early childhood degreed educators. All agreed this is not appropriate and the students need to be advocated for. I couldn't allow myself to sit on the sidelines on this matter, an appropriate recess time would positively impact the Kindergarteners behavior, focus and concentration and I don't wish for them to continue the school year with their current schedule.

With regards,  
Danielle Cassidy 603-548-0715

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Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
[267 Pembroke Street](#)  
[Pembroke, NH 03275](#)  
(603)485-5187



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

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## Fwd: Rebuttal to Ms. Clark's letter as found in your meeting minutes.

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**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>

Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 11:24 AM

To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kevin Verville** <kgverville@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Rebuttal to Ms. Clark's letter as found in your meeting minutes.

To: Kendra Cohen <kcohen@sau53.org>, Danielle Palmer <dpalmer@sau53.org>, Ellen O'donnell <eodonnell@sau53.org>, Nathan Oxnard <noxnard@sau53.org>, zlanglois@sau53.org <zlanglois@sau53.org>

Cc: psherman@sau53.org <psherman@sau53.org>

Madam chair, and members of the board:

Ms. Clark's letter dated 1 August 2023 to the Deerfield school board deserves some attention in that her argument is specious. Let us take it paragraph by paragraph, and shed a little light on the major points that she has overlooked.

First off, nobody is "hijacking" anything, to include social media. What is occurring is that citizens are taking to modern day public square to advocate for their positions on important matters of local concern. Further, nobody is trying to discredit anyone, or any institution. What people are doing is putting factual information into the public square for consideration by others that may be interested in such matters.

Ms. Clark points to the fact that Deerfield students graduate from CHS. Well of course they do! Who says they don't?! She points to the fact that Deerfield CHS graduates go on to college as evidence of the quality of academics at CHS. What she fails to provide, is a quantitative comparison of student performance from other schools. The simple fact that students graduate from a school, and some go on to college, or other life options is not evidence of a quality academic program. EVERY high school in NH graduates students, some of which go on to college. Provide us some comparative data that supports your supposition; otherwise your position is opinion, and conjecture.

Secondly, sharing the publicly available data provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education can hardly be called "fear mongering"! Since when is the sharing of quantitative official government data "fear mongering"?! Nobody is trying to "discredit" CHS. We are simply sharing the data that is publicly available. It is up to individuals to decide if they believe that data discredits CHS, or not. We point to the SAT scores because that is the only quantitative measure publicly available. As of yet, nobody has provided a reliable, quantitative source of data to make academic comparisons. Now to where we find agreement! Both CBNA and CHS offer opportunities for academic excellence. And one school may be a better choice, and fit for one student, and the other school for another student. That is why we are asking for choice! No one is saying "NO" to CHS. What people are saying "NO" to is a CHS ONLY model!

I agree with Ms. Clark that, "One test should not be the measure of academic excellence..." It is true that many other assessments are administered to students throughout the school year. Unfortunately, the results of those assessments are not made available to the public. For that reason, the only reliable, quantitative assessment vehicle that we have available is the NHSAS. Now on the mischaracterization typical of Ms. Clark. The NHSAS is administered according to very strict protocols, and is therefore administered equally at all schools! To say otherwise is a bold faced lie. What Ms. Clark is actually pointing out is participation rates. Now things get interesting. NH RSA 193-C does require DISTRICTS to assess students using the



NHSAS. That is for sure. What NH RSA 193-C does NOT require is student participation in said assessments. There has been an ongoing battle on this topic. I know, because I participated in the battle. My family told DCS that we were opting our children out of the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium, and later the NHSAS. We were told by school officials that we could not do that, which is, of course, preposterous. The debate between parents and school went on, and we informed the school district that if they administered the assessment to our children against our will, we would take the district to court, and that we were particularly confident we would prevail in court. At which point, and this is where it gets fun, we were told that we could, in fact, refuse our children's participation in said assessments, but we could not "opt out." Ah institutional legalese! Repulsive, really. So we refused our children's participation in the assessments, which was (is) our legal right as parents. There is no shortage of reasons why parents may choose to refuse their children's participation in the assessments, and none of them are our business. That is a private family matter. Now, once we had that settled with DCS, we formally requested that the Deerfield school district notify parents of their right to refuse, as so many other districts do. The Deerfield school district has always refused to do this, for reasons beyond my understanding. So maybe CBNA notifies families of students of their right to refuse participation! And why not?! All we ever seem to hear is how useless the data is for any purpose. Why waste valuable education time taking an assessment that no one cares about?

Ms. Clark seems to be trying to insinuate that CBNA is actively encouraging certain groups of students to not participate in the NHSAS, yet she does not dare say it directly, nor does she provide any evidence that this is occurring. Ms. Clark points to percentages of students participating, and the conclusion she is trying to drive you to, is that special education students drag down overall scores to a very large degree. This is, of course, absolutely NOT true, and it is an awful thing to say. If you look at performance trends for virtually every cohort, or subgroup, or demographic, their performance mirrors that of results of the entirety. This is a fact that Ms. Clark wants to dismiss because it flies in the face of her assertions, and proves her to be incorrect on this matter.

The assessment is a snapshot in time. One data point is an anecdote. Two data points is a coincidence. Three or more data points, and one can begin to see trends. That is what the aggregate data set should be used for. And when we look at those trends over a decade or more, a few things jump off the page. CHS is always in the bottom half if you consider all NH high schools. Furthermore, CBNA is always very high, dare I say one of the best performers, on that scale. Maybe that means nothing to you. Fair enough. But it tells many of us that CBNA consistently outperforms CHS by a country mile year after year after year. So while Ms. Clark seems perfectly satisfied with CHS scoring a 2 under "Achievement" year after year, she is simultaneously completely dissatisfied with CBNA getting a 2 for one year. Instead of pondering the cause of the one-time drop, perhaps she should be asking why CHS has not been able to make improvements to get a 3!!! Ms. Clark seems to be willing to give CHS a pass for anything and everything, and make excuses all day long for their continued poor performance, but if CBNA has one bad score one year, well then, close the school down!

Ms. Clark's assertion that "(Coe-Brown Northwood Academy) is not academically superior to Concord High School (sic)," may be correct, but she provides no evidence to support her claim! In fact, the evidence available certainly seems to indicate that she is incorrect.

The only thing that we are left to wonder about is why Ms. Clark seems to be so steadfastly against CBNA?! What axe is she grinding? Again, NOBODY is saying "NO" to CHS. We are only saying "NO" to CHS ONLY.

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Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
[267 Pembroke Street](#)  
[Pembroke, NH 03275](#)

10/27/23, 8:25 AM

School Administrative Unit 53 Mail - Fwd: Rebuttal to Ms. Clark's letter as found in your meeting minutes.

(603)485-5187



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

## Fwd: Proposed CHS Contract Letter

**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>  
 To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 10:03 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kevin Verville** <kgverville@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 9:29 AM

Subject: Proposed CHS Contract Letter

To: Kendra Cohen <kcohen@sau53.org>, Danielle Palmer <dpalmer@sau53.org>, Ellen O'donnell <eodonnell@sau53.org>, Nathan Oxnard <noxnard@sau53.org>, zlanglois@sau53.org <zlanglois@sau53.org>

Cc: psherman@sau53.org <psherman@sau53.org>

Madam chair, and members of the board:

Serious question: Why would the Deerfield school board even consider signing any contract, let alone a three-year contract, that commits a minimum of 70% of Deerfield high school students to attend CHS when their own polling shows that 70% of Deerfield students prefer, and would choose a different school, given the choice?!

If the Deerfield school board signs a contract with such language in it, then they will be forcing two things to occur. First, they will force 40%, TWO of FIVE, Deerfield high school students to attend a high school not of their choice. Second, the Deerfield school board will be forced to institute a LOTTERY, or some other arbitrary system to determine which students get to go where!

Such a contract creates ripple effects that last for years beyond the term of the contract. Once a student begins an academic career at a particular high school, it is often a very difficult social, and emotional process to change schools. This is a particularly formative time in young person's life. Some, perhaps many, will choose to continue attending a school that was not their first choice just to avoid the academic, emotional, and social turmoil that changing high school brings for so many students.

The fact is clear that the Concord school district is keenly aware that Deerfield students and families do NOT prefer CHS, and given other options, Deerfield students and families would select other options SEVEN to THREE! That is more than a majority of students. That is more than a super majority of students! The Deerfield school district should NOT sign any contract with entity that runs contrary to what 70% of students and families want!!!

Now the Concord school district is trying to play hardball with Deerfield, threatening to greatly increase the tuition rate, and deny Deerfield students free participation in the Concord Regional Technical Center charter school program embedded in CHS! It is my opinion that the Concord school district is trying to extort us in an effort to get us to send our students where we know they do not want to be! This is despicable behavior. Why would we want to do business with a school chooses this as a go-to "negotiating" tool? It is funny that others have criticized CBNA for simply publishing a tuition price, instead of negotiating, yet these same people have fallen silent about the current tactics being employed by Concord!

We hear a lot of talk about equity, and fairness by the Deerfield school board. I cannot see how such a contract could possibly be considered equitable. Such a contract would necessarily create two groups of students: The haves, and the have nots. There is nothing equitable in offering something that is broadly desired by many, to only a few, based on a contractual obligation that could be avoided. How can a contract

that allows a select few, 30%, THREE of TEN, a benefit that more than twice that amount desire possibly be considered fair?!

Any honest assessment of the Deerfield school district's finances reveals that Deerfield can easily afford any increases in the high school tuition line of the budget, as evidenced by the massive surpluses that the district runs year after year after year. To say it more bluntly, Deerfield can easily afford expanded school choice for our high school students by simply moving unused monies from budget line items into the high school tuition line.

The time is now to deliver on the promise of expanded school choice for Deerfield high school students, as demanded by a vast majority of Deerfield voters, families, and students!

Respectfully,  
Kevin Verville  
[9 McCarron Road](#)  
[Deerfield, NH 03037](#)

(603) 731-0654

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Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
[267 Pembroke Street](#)  
[Pembroke, NH 03275](#)  
(603)485-5187



gladu, ashley <agladu@sau53.org>

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## Fwd: School choice

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**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>  
To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 4:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cohen, Kendra** <kcohen@sau53.org>

Date: Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 12:29 PM

Subject: Fwd: School choice

To: z langlois <zlanglois@sau53.org>, patty sherman <psherman@sau53.org>, Danielle Palmer <dpalmer@sau53.org>, Ellen O'donnell <eodonnell@sau53.org>, nathan Oxnard <noxnard@sau53.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda Bean** <lbean@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 12:28 PM

Subject: School choice

To: Cohen, Kendra <kcohen@sau53.org>

Please please do not vote for the lottery option. That is not really school choice.

--

Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
267 Pembroke Street  
Pembroke, NH 03275  
(603)485-5187



gladu, ashley &lt;agladu@sau53.org&gt;

## Fwd: Request for Board Packets / SB Decorum

**sherman, patty** <psherman@sau53.org>  
 To: "gladu, ashley" <agladu@sau53.org>

Tue, Oct 24, 2023 at 4:02 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stacey Marchionni** <stacey190@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 19, 2023 at 3:20 PM

Subject: Request for Board Packets / SB Decorum

To: Cohen, Kendra <kcohen@sau53.org>

Cc: sherman, patty <psherman@sau53.org>, langlois, z <zlanglois@sau53.org>, <eodonnell@sau53.org>, <dpalmer@sau53.org>, Oxnard, nathan <noxnard@sau53.org>

Hello Kendra -

I am writing for at least the 3rd time to request that the School Board provide to the public, in advance of your meetings and along with the agenda, the documents being reviewed by the School Board at your public meetings. That you post a pdf of the packet online with the agenda WHEN the agenda is published, and that you supplement the packet online if needed when late documentation is received. It is absolutely impossible to be in tune with the Board and to provide intelligent and helpful community feedback when you do not provide the community with the documents you are reviewing.

Concord School Board would be a good exemplar for you ... they post their meeting agenda online, along with all the documents they are reviewing ... all in a pdf for the public to download and see. You have stated the Board wants community buy-in, you want feedback, you want open communication ... all of these things are just and proper, yet you refuse to provide any of the documentation you are reviewing at your meetings. To sit in a School Board meeting, or to listen from home and have you discuss budgets and renovation plans and invoices and curriculums and student success reports, with no ability to see any of these documents is incredibly frustrating. You are directly preventing the public from engaging in a productive discussion or review of the School Board's actions and engagements. You can not and will not get productive feedback in this manner. You can not expect people to support your decisions when we can see NOTHING that you are discussing.

You are reviewing a draft budget. You are in receipt of student progress reports from CHS. You are reviewing curriculum. You are proposing changes in policy. There is a public comment section (3 minutes) at the meetings, but how can we ask questions and come to understand what you are reviewing if we cannot SEE IT?!! We have to go by your very difficult to follow discussions between bouts of laughter, innuendo, jokes, personal/insider remarks and condescending remarks to try to figure out what you are talking about.

In addition to the lack of openness from the School Board as discussed above, and for which you, as a Board, deride Coe Brown, I might add ... the Board lacks any sense of decorum in its meetings. As mentioned, the joking and insider remarks and play, the teasing and laughing, the unwillingness to look in the eyes, the people who address you in public comments (unless they are someone you know and like), is wildly inappropriate for the positions you hold, the responsibilities you have over the education of the children under your purview, and for the amount of town finances under your direction. And it is disrespectful to the residents in town. I (and many others) would like to see a better sense of professionalism and decorum in the School Board meetings. And PLEASE, PLEASE, put the Board Packets online with the agendas.

Failing this, you will start seeing right to know requests every week, demanding the same, and more importantly, you will never get the public engagement, respect and buy-in you seek.

Regards,

**Stacey Marchionni**

**53 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Deerfield NH 03037**

M 610.500.1080

E [stacey190@gmail.com](mailto:stacey190@gmail.com)

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Patty Sherman  
Superintendent of Schools  
Pembroke and Deerfield School Districts  
[267 Pembroke Street](#)  
[Pembroke, NH 03275](#)  
(603)485-5187